## 2015-2019

# **Community Health Assessment**

Community health assessments are a core function of St. Louis County Public Health. A community health assessment identifies and describes factors that affect the health of a community, and the factors that determine available resources to address those factors. The Public Health Division collects, analyzes, and begins to use data to prioritize issues and make decisions.





# **Community Health Assessment Process**



## **Collect and** review data.

Data sources may include: Bridge to Health Survey, Minnesota Student Survey, and Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, and the US Census Bureau.



## **Conduct focus** groups.

A variety of focus groups are held across St. Louis County to get community input on health priority areas.



Develop a community health report and a community health improvement plan.



**Identify** community health priority areas.

## **Current Health Priorities**



#### **Mental Health**

REPORTED HAVING 14+ poor mental health days IN THE LAST MONTH

### **Youth Substance Use**

IN 2019 St. Louis County 11th graders IN 2016 1 in 3 used an electronic cigarette. 1 in 5



## **Chronic Disease**

Nearly 1 in 5 adults has diabetes (9%) or pre-diabetes (10%) (Bridge to Health Survey, 2015)

## **Food Insecurity**

**Adult food insecurity** rate in St. Louis County: 17% Rates as high as 40% in some neighborhoods

(Bridge to Health Survey, 2015)

## **Addressing Health Priorities**

• The county was awarded a four-year, \$440,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Health for suicide prevention on the Iron Range in response to the mental health needs identified in various needs assessments and focus groups.



- Growth in partnerships and collaboration. St. Louis County partners with healthcare systems and numerous organizations to understand community health needs and take collaborative action.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, the Chemical Abuse Prevention & Education Coalition held a community solution series to educate the Quad Cities region on the correlation of substance abuse and mental health. Nearly 300 community members and professionals were reached. The series will be continued in the Hibbing community in 2020.



## **Next Steps**

- · Conduct asset mapping of coalitions working on health priority areas in northern St. Louis County.
- Work through 2020 to support and strengthen capacity of coalitions in St. Louis County that address community health priorities.
- · Finalize a county-wide health needs assessment report and community health implementation plan document.

